

A Message From BWT Director Liza Estlund Olson



Director
Liza Estlund Olson

As you know, we have been extremely busy in the Bureau of Workforce Transformation since our last BWT Fast Track was released. I want to highlight and share with you a few events and initiatives from these past few months.

I am pleased to announce that we are actively moving forward with the formation of the Bureau of Workforce Transformation starting with the naming of four of the six Division Directors. Mary Jones, Veterans' Services; Dianne Duthie, Lifelong Learning; Gary Clark, Accelerating Employment; and Linda Patrick, Regional & Sectoral Strategies. As part of this transition some staff changes have been made, both permanently and temporarily. I am excited that we are almost at the end of this long transformation road and with the new year we will be ready to face the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us.

We also continue to focus on our major initiative from Governor Granholm, the No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) program. We continue to work together and successfully prepare our unemployed and underemployed for new sustainable jobs in growth sectors. Recently, former Director Keith Cooley and Deputy Directory Andrew Levin presented the NWLB team with Certificates of Appreciation.

We are currently in the planning stages for an upcoming Green Jobs Conference. The State of Michigan is increasing its efforts to move into the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Industries, through increased partnerships with employers and other economic development partners. The conference is scheduled to take place in May 2009.

In other updates, we are actively working with the Council for Labor & Economic Growth (CLEG), developing and implementing the Michigan Career Readiness Certificate. The Michigan Career Readiness Certificate is a portable credential that tells an employer that a job applicant has the necessary skills to be successful. Also, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation we are implementing the Road Construction Apprentice Readiness Program (RCAR). Recently, 77 students received certificates for completing Michigan's new Road Construction Apprenticeship Readiness Program. The program is brand new, born in April of this year and is designed to open the world of road construction trades to women, minorities and the economically disadvantaged.

In closing, I would like to thank you for helping me learn all that we do as a Bureau; I have been here a little over seven months and it has been fascinating, interesting, and fast paced, which doesn't begin to describe it, and an honor to work with hardworking individuals trying to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Liza Estlund Olson, Director BWT

Inside this issue:

Michigan Shared Youth	2
No Worker Left Behind	3
Spotlight on Best Practices	3
MI Veterans	3
Service Officer Award	4
Michigan Talent Bank	5
Career Seminars for Youth	6
Michigan Appreciates Farm Workers	6
Community Corner	7
New Employee Orientation	8
Fast Facts & Websites	8

Michigan Shared Youth Vision Partnership 2008-09 Strategic Plan

The Michigan Shared Youth Vision Partnership (MSYVP) is an interagency collaborative body established to ensure better collaboration, coordination and communication between youth serving agencies to ultimately produce better outcomes for youth. The Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Workforce Transformation serves as the lead agency for the MSYVP and functions as the convener. Partners include the Michigan Departments of Human Services, Education, Transportation, and Military and Veterans Affairs, Michigan State Police, the Office of Governor Granholm, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, children's advocacy organizations, and Michigan Works! Agencies. Partners are currently concentrating on two at-risk populations: foster youth and high schools dropouts and potential dropouts. The projects below illustrate this focus.

The MSYVP received a federal grant for a pilot project in Southeast Michigan to build an infrastructure at the service-delivery level. This local level infrastructure will implement the strategies developed at the state level to address the barriers in employment, education, development and leadership, supportive relationships and connecting activities for youth in foster care. One of the intended outcomes of the pilot project is to create a replicable and sustainable model for other areas of the state and at-risk populations.

Partners are assisting in planning the 2008 Dropout Pre-

vention Leadership Summit to be held on October 20 at the Lansing Center. The MSYVP was tasked with assisting communities in addressing the dropout crisis post-summit. To this end, the MSYVP held a resource mapping session on dropout prevention and recovery services in June 2008 in order to identify gaps and overlaps in services to youth. Three subcommittees have been established to develop and implement action plans in three areas: Networking/Communications, Funding/Public Policy, and Technical Assistance/Resource identification.

The MSYVP 2008-2009 Strategic Plan includes three goals:

1. Development of integrated state and local systems through collaborative efforts of all youth partners
2. Actualization of a culture that supports youth development and emphasizes the connection between this investment and achieving Michigan's economic goals
3. Progress and impact of the integrated systems is benchmarked, measured, rewarded and best practices reported

For more information, please contact:

Virginia Abdo, MSYVP Coordinator at (517) 373-4472 or abdov@michigan.gov



No Worker Left Behind Team



No Worker Left Behind Team (from left to right) Keith Cooley, Ben Williams, Nate Kammer, Krista Johnson, Andy Levin, Stephanie Beckhorn, Rey Guzman, Patty Vanaman, Rick Niedieck, Dan Dykstra – not pictured Diana Carpenter, Rick Schnieder

On August 21st, former Director Keith Cooley and Deputy Director Andrew Levin presented the No Worker Left Behind (NWLB) team with Certificates of Appreciation for their part in the success of the first year of the NWLB initiative. The team had just finished coordinating 5 First Year Anniversary Events from Escanaba to Warren.

NWLB Important Facts:

- Up to two years worth of free tuition at any Michigan community college, university or other approved training program
- Free tuition program is a one time offer
- Three years to sign up for the program, with 4 years to complete training
- Pursuing a degree or occupational certificate in a high demand occupation or emerging industry or in an entrepreneurship program

Spotlight on Best Practices

In the past 20 years, the Literacy Center of West Michigan (LCWM) has grown to a staff of 14 with 3 distinct literacy programs. The Adult Tutoring Program is the largest of these programs, serving over 427 students last year with individualized tutoring. This program serves adults with the lowest literacy levels who lack the confidence and skills to participate in adult education classes. The program is free of charge and offers customized instruction in a safe environment. Collaboration with agencies for service delivery and referrals

is key to the success of the program. LCWM has launched a literacy initiative called the Family Literacy Program, which partners with Michigan Family Resources to positively impact the lives of both adults and children. The Literacy Center of West Michigan was featured on ABC World News with Charles Gibson, wrapping up the network's two part series about illiteracy in America. LCWM's Adult Tutoring Program is an outstanding example of one of the Best Practices in Adult Literacy Education.

The Literacy Center of West Michigan was featured on ABC World News with Charles Gibson...

MI Veterans

November is Veterans' Month and there are ten job fairs scheduled which focus on Veterans



American Legion Employment Award Winners including: LVER James Robinson, DVOW Joe Swyrtek, Dow Chemical and Michigan Works! Saginaw, Bay City & Midland



Michigan Works! Director Ed Oberski and BWT Deputy Director Janet Howard with Olga Pilar and Ken Kureka who received the American Legion Top Veteran Office Award.

Pat Ford Receives Service Officer Award



Pat Ford was named the 2007 Service Officer-of-the-Year during the 8th Annual Veterans Hall of Fame and Awards Ceremony at the Hillsdale Assembly of God Church

JONESVILLE - (November 12, 2008)

- The initial Service Officer-of-the-Year Award, which recognizes the top veteran's service officer in South-central Michigan, was presented to Patrick Ford by the Hillsdale County Veterans Association during the Veterans Hall of Fame and Awards Ceremony at the Hillsdale Assembly of God Church Tuesday evening.

Ford, a veteran's counselor for South Central Michigan Works, faced stiff competition to receive the honor. He was selected based on his attention-to-detail, dedication and professionalism extended to veterans.

"We are proud and excited to honor Pat Ford as the initial recipient of this new award," said Roger Yoder, Director of the Veterans Hall of Fame and Awards Ceremony. "To be considered for the award is indeed a tremendous achievement, and for Pat to be the selectee shows the appreciation veterans have for his service to the community."

The award was named in Ford's honor after the presentation as the initial recipient of the award. Jim Topps, American Legion, Department of Michigan, veterans service officer was selected to receive the 2008 Pat Ford Service Officer-of-the-Year Award. William C. Anderson, the State Commander for the American Legion accepted the award in behalf of Topps who was unable to attend the ceremony where 250 people were in attendance.

Patrick enlisted in the U.S. Army several years after graduating from Addison High School in 1965. He completed his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, with follow-on AIT training at Fort Lee, Virginia. After graduating as a PLL Specialist, Patrick was sent to Vietnam in February of 1967.

His service in Vietnam included the 101 S & S Company attached to the 101st Airborne in the Mekong Delta area. Patrick was involved in the protection of the Tonsonhut Airport during the TET offensive. He is a member of the Leighr A. Wright American Legion Post 53 in Hillsdale, Michigan, and is a lifetime member of the DAV.

Ford met the award eligibility by being an honorably discharged veteran who works as a counselor assisting area veterans. "Everyone here knows how hard it is to get a job here in Hillsdale County," Yoder said. "It's nice to know we have someone like Pat Ford in a position to assist veterans with their job search."

As a veteran's counselor in the Hillsdale, Jackson, and Monroe South Central Michigan Works service centers, Ford organized job fairs throughout the area providing our soldiers access to job opportunities. Through Ford, daily job search advice and assistance with the Michigan Talent Bank was provided resulting in veterans obtaining local employment.

Patrick initially applied for the State of Michigan Disabled Veterans Outreach Worker opening in 1996, and several years later got that opportunity. He has been working in the veterans' division for 10 years, and is now working in the Department of Labor and Economic Growth Bureau of Workforce Transformation Veterans Southern Region.

Ford has been involved with Addison Little League Baseball and Pop Warner football programs through the years. Patrick has raced standard bred race horses and is a member of the Trotting Horse Association of America. He has been married 38 years with three children, and three grandchildren.

The Veterans Hall of Fame and Awards Ceremony was established in 2001. The ceremony was the first, and remains the only Hall of Fame in the state of Michigan to recognize the service of soldiers from the Revolutionary War to the War in Iraq today. This was a truly memorable event for Ford and the other veterans who were honored on Veteran's Day.

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Toll Free Number for
Michigan Careers in
Transition:

1-877-JOBSMi1 or
1-877-562-7641

***“MCIT is different
from other sites
because it not only
focuses on the
usual
re-employment
information, it
brings together
resources for
immediate and
ongoing help with
life needs”***

**Get on
board
and
direct
your
destiny!**



Getting the Job Done!

Moving forward to bring together employers and jobseekers, in 18 days flat, the Michigan Talent Bank (MTB) team met the challenge of assisting over 2,600 engineers and administrative professionals displaced from the Chrysler Corporation in Michigan.

The MTB team developed and launched the Michigan Careers in Transition (MCIT) Website, an online Rapid Response service for workers facing plant closings and layoffs. The MCIT is different from other sites because it not only focuses on the usual reemployment information; it brings together resources for immediate and ongoing help with life needs such as home foreclosure, money matters, insurance, health care and social networking. For more information on MCIT, visit the Website at www.michigan.gov/mcit.

Keeping jobseekers connected, the MTB team established and trained a 9-person call center to operate the MCIT help line at 1-877-JOBMi1 or 1-877-562-7641. Located in Cadillac Place in Detroit, the call center staff includes former Chrysler employees hired through the Peer-to-Peer Program.

Taking a novel approach to assisting jobseekers, the MTB team also established a virtual job fair to facilitate matching employers with job opportunities for individuals with skills gained at Chrysler and former Chrysler employees through the Michigan Talent Bank. Currently in the works is a jobseeker notification tool that will notify displaced workers via email on Rapid Response events, updates to the Website, and other helpful services they may need. Anticipated completion for this tool is early January 2009.

The MTB team's accomplishments are attributable to the collaboration of various partners from the Oakland County Michigan Works! Agency, the Department of Information Technology, DLEG administrative support staff and others.

For their dedication to serve Michigan citizens at their time of need, the following staff deserves a big “Thank You” to Turkessa Baldrige, Deborah Hughes, Michael Warunek, and Manager Barbara Schulz for work on the online services; Veronica Bonner and Loretta Crow for their work with the call center. Patricia Sawicki, Zelta Little, Deborah Knighten, and Verlene Moore also deserve kudos for maintaining all of the ongoing MTB services during the project implementation.

Career Seminars for Youth

Michael Nimmons, Employment Service Analyst with the Labor Exchange Services Division, facilitated a series of youth seminars at the Skillman and Montieth branches of the Detroit Public Library. The three-day seminars highlighted summer employment and college preparation resources available to youth on the Michigan Jobs & Career Portal.



Michael Nimmons introducing the Summer Youth Jobs Page of the Career Portal.

On day one, the topic was College and Careers. On day two, the focus was Summer Youth Employment. Mr. Nimmons introduced the Summer Youth Jobs Page of the Career Portal, which features links for summer employment, Youth Employment Guidelines for the State of Michi-

gan, and information on where to get a Social Security Card. The seminars wrapped up on day three with a brief review of the materials covered the two previous days and concluded with exciting games of "Michigan Jobs & Career Portal Jeopardy," where the youth were divided into teams, given questions to answer about the Career Portal, and competed for prizes provided by the library.

These seminars were featured on the State of Michigan's "Teen Job Show" hosted by Nirva Civilus of DLEG's Media Relations Office.

The Youth Employment, Colleges & Career Seminars offered by Labor Exchanges Services, is just one of the many ways they are reaching out to the community to provide quality programs and services to all Michigan customers.



Michigan Appreciates Farm Workers

Agriculture is big business in Michigan. Michigan's agricultural production and food processing industry employs about 1,000,000 Michigan residents. Migrant and seasonal farm workers provide much needed support to many Michigan growers during the primary growing season (April – October).

In order to serve the needs of migrant and seasonal farm workers, Migrant Resource Councils have been formed throughout Michigan. These collaborative groups, which include staff from the Bureau of Workforce Transformation, assist local service providers with coordinating services. They also strive to reduce duplication of services, identify unmet needs, and develop supportive programs.

To extend a well deserved "Thank You" to our dedicated farm workers, the Capital Area Migrant Resource Council (serving the greater Lansing area) gathered donations from local businesses, agricultural commodity groups and individuals in the community. The donations were used to create 450 adult and child gift bags. The adult gift bags included items such as t-shirts, dental supplies, bandanas, maps, calendars, pens and pencils. The children's gifts were nylon backpacks that included school supplies, books, dental supplies, toys and stuffed animals. Other activities included the donation of a piñata, which was shared with children at the Stockbridge Migrant Education Program.

In July, Perla Paredes, (DLEG/BWT Field Services Division), Lisa MacLeod (DLEG/BWT State Monitor Advocate's office), and other committee members, personally delivered the gift bags to farm workers and their families in Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, and Livingston counties. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect with this great workforce and express gratitude for their service to Michigan.

This event was made possible through the support of generous organizations including: United Dairy Industry of Michigan; Michigan Corn Marketing Program; Capital Area Michigan Works!; Telamon Corporation; EVE, Inc.; Capital Area Community Services; Cristo Rey Community Center; Capital Area Literacy Coalition; Dr. Lamond Dental Office, as well as many personal contributions from the supportive staff of the BWT.

July is Farm Worker Appreciation Month

To show appreciation to Michigan's overlooked, hard-working farm worker population, the Councils offer activities and/or gifts to farm workers and their families around the state.

Supporting Youth

Congratulations to the Labor Exchange Services (LES) Division that held a successful fundraising campaign to help college-bound Brianna Parker on her road to achieving her dream.

Veronica Bonner, a Communications Assistant within LES, learned of Brianna's plight through volunteer work she does at a local youth center. Brianna, a recent high school graduate

with plans to attend Western Michigan University, was unsure about whether she would be able to attend. She wanted to be the first in her family to go to college. Unfortunately, her family didn't have the financial means to purchase the essentials needed to stay on a college campus.

Veronica decided to ask her fellow co-workers for donations. The response was overwhelming. Everyone gave

generously. A meet and greet was held on Friday, August 22, 2008. Everyone got a chance to meet with Brianna, give words of encouragement and to share stories of their college days. She thanked everyone for their kind generosity. Brianna left for Western Michigan University on Monday, August 25, 2008 with everything she needed to start a successful college career.

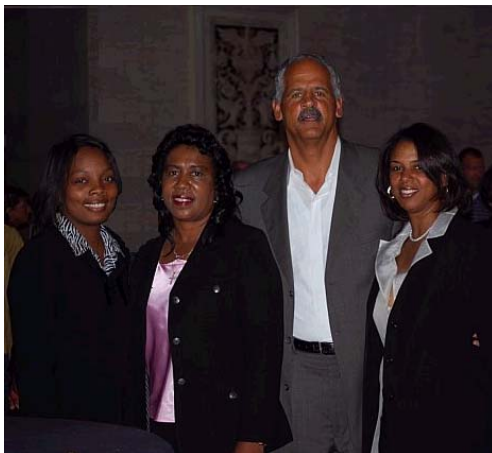


From left to right: Lisa Ross, Tamika Pritchett, Kamika Hughes, Veronica Bonner, and Brianna Parker

"Knowing that I have co-workers who are so generous and thoughtful is a gift in itself"

-Veronica Bonner

Michigan Works! Conference



BWT Management and staff, chat with keynote speaker Stedman Graham at the Michigan Works! Conference held on September 8, 2008.

Pictured from left to right: BWT Analyst, Turkessa Baldrige; BWT Deputy Director, Janet Howard; Keynote Speaker, Stedman Graham and BWT Executive Assistant, Michele Walker.



Golf Outing

The annual Department of Labor and Economic Growth Golf Outing took place in August and employees from the Bureau of Workforce Transformation, who participated in the golf outing, are pictured from left to right: Joe Billig, Brian Marcotte, Rick Olivarez, and Don Childs. The DLEG Golf outing was at Ledge Meadows Golf Course in Grand Ledge, Michigan. Next year's DLEG Golf Outing is slated for August 7, 2009 at Ledge Meadows Golf Course in Grand Ledge, Michigan.



"This picture is proof that anyone can play golf, however, it may not be good golf."

Rick Olivarez

Basic Employment Service Interviewer Training

The bureau's Training and Development Unit conducted Basic Employment Service Interviewer Training to enhance the job skills of BWT's Agricultural Employment Specialists and Veterans' Representatives.

Staff attended three-day classroom training sessions held in Lansing or Detroit, and participated in nine webinars on related topics.



Presenter Jamie Pafford (back right) and Sandra Jurado listen as Mick Albig talks.



Benita Rendon-Murry (left) and Carmela Buchanan react to a comment made during their training session.



Presenter Phil Kovacs talks to trainees about how to successfully deal with difficult customers.



Dave Jackson and Tom Lamie work together during a listening activity.



Tracy Anderson explains a personal experience involving customer service.

Fast Track Facts

- 5,531 enrolled in training between August 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008 representing a 40% increase over the 1st year in training funding through all sources, except Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)
- 5,574 approved educational programs were updated or added to the list of potential programs for NWLB participants to choose from
- NWLB received a \$6.6M National Emergency Grant and an additional \$16M in TAA, and the state legislature included \$15M for NWLB in the 2009 budget

Websites

BWT Training Website
No Worker Left Behind
Michigan Talent Bank
Jobs & Career Portal
Veterans Employment Services
Agricultural Services
Fidelity Bonding
MI Internship
Manufacturing Careers
Regional Skills Alliances
SHARE Network

www.michigan.gov/bwt
www.michigan.gov/nwlb
www.michigan.gov/talentbank
www.michigan.gov/careers
www.michigan.gov/veteranjobs
www.michaglabor.org
www.michigan.gov/fidelitybonding
www.michigan.gov/miintern
www.michigan.gov/mfgcareers
www.michigan.gov/rsa
www.michigan.gov/sharenetwork

If you would like information on upcoming Job Fairs, please go to www.michigan.gov/careers and click on Job Fairs.

BWT Fast Track

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